

Effective: October 1997

**Academic Program: Undergraduate Studies
HONORS PROGRAM: THE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE**

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The University Honors College has been created to provide challenging and enriching educational experiences for our most talented and motivated students. Designed to fulfill the University-wide general education requirements, the program is open to all undergraduate students in all majors. It provides honors students with a core of stimulating and demanding courses. These courses are intended to introduce honors students to the intellectual underpinnings of modern culture while developing their ability to think critically, to do independent research, and to write in a style which is both lucid and analytical. The core requirements explore the evolution of the Western intellectual and literary traditions, mathematical theory and applications, and scientific methods in theory and practice.

These requirements include an honors composition course and an advanced writing experience in the form of a senior thesis. The core courses are intended to encourage a commitment to academic pursuits among our best students while providing them with a common intellectual bond. The core is augmented with a variety of honors general education electives from which the student may choose to complete the requirements of the program. The majority of these courses puts emphasis upon research and writing.

Honors courses have limited enrollments. This creates an intimate and stimulating learning environment where students from varied backgrounds and disciplines can develop a sense of intellectual camaraderie. While honors courses involve both depth and breadth of study and stress independent research and writing, the workloads required are manageable. In addition to providing an enriched and integrated general education, the program is meant to prepare and to encourage our finest students to continue their education in graduate and professional schools. Through formal study and informal advisement they are encouraged to realize their intellectual and professional potential.

Academic Requirements

Completion of the program requires that a minimum of 30 hours of honors credits be taken. All honors courses must be passed with grades of B- or better to receive honors credit.

Academic Standards and Graduation Requirements

A progressive minimum grade point average requirement shall govern student retention in the program. Students must achieve a 2.75 cumulative grade point average after taking 15 credits to remain in the program. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls between 2.75 and 3.0 after the completion of 15 credits will be placed on probation and must raise his or her cumulative grade point average to 3.0 by the time 45 credits have been completed to remain in good standing in the program. All University honors students must attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 by the time they have completed 60 credits. To graduate with the University Honors Baccalaureate degree a student must complete all work required in the program with grades of B- or better and must qualify to graduate with honors.

Students who plan to graduate with the University Honors baccalaureate must notify the director of the college of their intentions no later than the end of their junior year. Accompanying this notification must be a proposed senior thesis topic approved by the faculty member who has agreed to supervise it. The senior thesis, successfully defended, must be submitted to the program director no later than two (2) weeks before graduation in order for the student to graduate with the honors baccalaureate.

Admission Requirements

Entering freshmen who have combined SAT scores of 1200 or better and are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class are eligible to join the University Honors College. As motivation, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning are often better predictors of success in the program than test scores, incoming students who do not meet these formal criteria but who are seriously interested in participating in the program may apply to the director for admission. In order that no superior student be denied the opportunity to participate in the program, all students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.35 at the University are eligible to enroll in honors courses and to join the program. Other interested students may be admitted to honors classes with the permission of the instructor.

Students may have up to fifteen hours of transferred honors credits earned at other accredited academic institutions apply toward filling the graduation requirements of the University Honors College. Decisions about which transferred courses may count for honors credit will rest with the director of the University Honors College.

Competency Requirements

1. Honors composition (Honors English 110).
2. Mathematics: To be fulfilled by completing statistics at the MATH 130 or higher level or calculus at the MATH 151 or higher level; with a grade of B- or higher.
3. Students who have already demonstrated competency in English 110 or Mathematics 161 may be exempted from that honors competency requirement with the written approval of the director.

Core Requirements

1. The Western Literary Tradition I or II (Honors English 238 or 239).
2. The Western Intellectual Tradition I or II (Honors Social Sciences 201 or 202).
3. An honors laboratory science course with an additional credit hour where students and faculty will meet individually or in a seminar. This hour will provide an opportunity to consider the intellectual and historical context in which core ideas develop and to explore and discuss in greater depth those ideas raised in the lecture and laboratory components. Honors seminars taken with the following laboratory science courses will fulfill the honors laboratory science requirement: BIOL 100/108, CHEM 112, ESCI 202, ESCI 221, ESCI 261, PHYS 230/231.
4. An honors perspectives course.
5. An honors senior thesis: The honors thesis topic, the advisor for the project, and the committee before which the thesis is defended must be approved by the Honors College Committee. The defense committee must include at least one (1) faculty member knowledgeable in the area of the thesis who is from outside the department of the thesis advisor. The thesis will fulfill the general education upper division writing course requirement.

Honors electives

1. A minimum of nine (9) hours of honors general education electives.
2. A minimum of one (1) honors course must be taken in each of the following general education academic areas: mathematics/science, humanities, and social science.
3. If the above requirements are met by course selections totaling fewer than 30 honors credits, additional honors electives must be taken so that a minimum of 30 credits of honors courses is completed.